

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

NEAL, Richard E. (Democrat)  
Representative, 2nd District, Massachusetts  
Elected 1988 to 101st Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Worcester, Massachusetts - 14 February 1949

Home: Springfield, Massachusetts

Marital Status: Married (Maureen) - 4 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: American International College, BA, 1972; Univ of Hartford, MPA, 1976

Military: None

Profession: Public Official

Political: Springfield City Council, 1978-84; mayor, 1984-1988. Succeeded the retiring Rep Edward P. Boland (D) by defeating independent Louis Godena, a carpenter and self-described communist -- with 80% of the vote. Ran unopposed in 1998, 2000, and 2002.

Rep Neal, a liberal with a non-confrontational manner, is known to do his homework on issues and works within the party structure. Although he usually votes with his party, on some high-visibility issues he parts ways, for example, on abortion when he opposed federal funding in cases of rape or incest. Also voted against the 1989 pay raise.

In the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress, he opposed the B-2, MX, SICBM, and SDI. In the 102<sup>nd</sup> Congress, he voted against giving President Bush the authority to use force in the Persian gulf. Opposed a Frank amdt to the FY92 DoD authorization which sought to terminate the Midgetman missile program. Left the Banking and Small Business Cmtes to take a seat on the Ways and Means Cmte at the start of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress. In the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress during the debate on the Republican proposal to overhaul the nation's welfare system, harshly rebuked the Republicans for not including child support enforcement provisions.

In the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, was appointed to Democratic Steering Cmte. During debate on managed-care health plans called for colleagues to establish a reasonable "bill of rights" for patients. In early 1998, traveled to Cuba, met with Fidel Castro and later called on Administration to make several "concrete gestures of goodwill" toward Cuba, including lifting the US embargo on food and medicine, a step subsequently recommended by SecState Albright. In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, introduced H.R. 1213, to expand Individual Retirement Accounts.

In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, expressed concerns with going to war, said, "I think there was full support for disarming Saddam Hussein. The question is, how do you do it?" Voted against the War resolution in the previous Congress.

Additional: Since 1992 has served as an At-Large Democratic Whip.

AF Bases: Westover AFB (AFRES)

## COMMITTEES

### BUDGET

WAYS AND MEANS -- Subc on Trade

